

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

RESOLUTION NO. R1-2002-0067

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO

SOTOYOME RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FISH FRIENDLY FARMING PROGRAM

Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

- WHEREAS,** The Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), is responsible for ensuring protection of the beneficial uses of water and protection against pollution and nuisance conditions resulting from waste discharges including non-point source discharges;
- WHEREAS,** Vineyards in California's unique North Coast area produce premium quality grapes representing significant economic returns for the agricultural industry in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties;
- WHEREAS,** Vineyard farming practices in the North Coast have contributed to non-point sources of pollution identified as sedimentation, elevated water temperature, and riparian habitat loss placing increased pressures on North Coast anadromous fish populations;
- WHEREAS,** Coho and Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout have been federally-listed as threatened in North Coast streams and rivers;
- WHEREAS,** In 1997 the State Water Resources Control Board, in cooperation with the Regional Water Board, awarded a Clean Water Act Section 205(j) grant to partially fund the development of the Fish Friendly Farming Program for vineyard farming practices protective of water quality;
- WHEREAS,** The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District has developed the Fish Friendly Farming Program and authored the *Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program Farm Conservation Plan Workbook and Beneficial Management Practices* manual to promote vineyard practices protective of water quality beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing the benefits of the Fish Friendly Farming Program to water quality protection, the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District has been awarded a federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source control grant to implement the Fish Friendly Farming Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Water Board recognizes the effort of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District to address a priority non-point source water quality issue; be it further resolved that the Regional Water Board encourages the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District to continue to refine, develop, and implement the Fish Friendly Farming Program to provide for protection of water quality and help restore the salmon and steelhead runs of the Russian River Basin and adjacent watersheds.

Certification

I, Susan A. Warner, Executive Officer, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct Copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on June 27, 2002

Susan A Warner
Executive Officer